

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-29, 31-42 and 44-46 are pending.

Claims 1, 10, 23 and 35 are amended.

Claims 5, 18, 30 and 43 are cancelled.

In the Non-final Office Action mailed on September 13, 2005, the Examiner objected to the claims 5, 18, 30 and 43, and rejected claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-29, 31-42 and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

In this response, specification and claims 1, 10, 23 and 35 are amended and claims 5, 18, 30 and 43 are cancelled. For the reasons set forth in detail below, applicant submits that the present application, including each of pending claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-29, 31-42 and 44-46 are in condition for allowance.

Amendment to the Specification

While the Examiner has not objected to the specification, the undersigned has hereby amended the "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)" section of the specification, starting from page 1 through page 3, and has added the Application Serial Numbers and/or Patent Numbers of the references which were missing from the original application. By these amendments the undersigned has not added any new matter to this application, rather provided required information regarding the references.

(Allowable Subject Matter) Objection to Claims 5, 18, 30 and 43

The Examiner objected to claims 5, 18, 30 and 43 as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The undersigned has hereby amended the independent base claims 1, 10, 23 and 35 to add all the limitations of the objected dependent claims 5, 18, 30 and 43 and has cancelled claims 5, 18, 30 and 43. Therefore, the amended independent base claims 1, 10, 23 and 35 are in condition for allowance and accordingly their dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-17, 19-22, 24-29, 31-34, 36-42 and 44-46, which include the features of the independent base claims 1, 10, 23 and 35, are also in condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of Claims 1-4, 6-17, 19-29, 31-42 and 44-46

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 10-13, 16, 17, 19, 21, 23-25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35-38, 41, 42, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Banks et al. (US Pat. No. 6,731,646).

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14-17, 20, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 39, 41, 42, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Anderson et al. (US Pat. No. 6,597,691).

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6-10, 15, 19-23, 28, 32-35, 40 and 44-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by George (US Pat. No. 6,697,359).

As mentioned above, independent base claims 1, 10, 23 and 35 are amended to include all the limitations by which they will become allowable. Therefore, the amended independent claims 1, 10, 23 and 35 and their dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-17, 19-22, 24-29, 31-34, 36-42 and 44-46, which include the features of the independent claims 1, 10, 23 and 35 are all in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

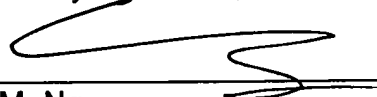
In view of the foregoing, all of the claims pending in the application are in condition for allowance and, therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite

prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6488.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 030048030US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 11/18/05

Respectfully submitted,

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